

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 277103

FOR RCO

FOLLOWING REPEATS OUAGADOUGOU 2637 ACTION DEPT INFO BANAKO
ABIDJAN NIAMEY PARIS USUN DEC 18TH

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 2637

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ML, UV

SUBJECT: BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN MALI AND UPPER VOLTA

REF: OUAGA 2623 (NOTAL)

1. FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, WE GATHER THAN MALIAN FORCES
ARE NOW EFFECTIVELY IN CONTROL OF VOLTAN TERRITORY
NORTH OF DJIBO WHICH MALIANS CLAIM IS PART OF MALI.
MALIAN TACTIC APPEARS TO BE TO SIT TIGHT AND NOT MOVE
BEYOND TERRITORY THEY CLAIM WAS GRANTED TO FRENCH
SUDAN IN 1935. FRENCH AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THAT, IF
AND WHEN OAU FACT-FINDING MISSION ARRIVES, MALIANS
WILL BE GLAD TO SHOW THEM TERRITORY INHABITED BY
MALIANS AND CONTROLLED BY MALIAN FORCES.

2. GOUV HAS ORDERED PARTIAL MOBILIZATION OF RESERVES
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AND APPEARS DETERMINED TO RECONQUER LOST TERRITORY.

VOLTAN ARMY, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN NEGLECTED FOR MANY YEARS AND IS NO MATCH FOR MALIAN ARMY WHICH IS MUCH LARGER, AND MUCH BETTER TRAINED AND EQUIPPED. PRESIDENT LAMIZANA HAS REPORTEDLY COMPLAINED TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR THAT FRANCE HAS DONE MUCH MORE FOR MALIAN ARMY THAN FOR VOLTAN ARMY IN PAST FEW YEARS. GOUV HAS SENT MILITARY MISSION TO ABIDJAN TO TRY TO PURCHASE AMMUNITION WHICH IS IN VERY SHORT SUPPLY.

3. TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE FOR GOUV, MALIANS HAVE REPORTEDLY POSITIONED A RELATIVELY LARGE FORCE AT SIKASSO IN ORDER TO NEUTRALIZE THE VOLTAN BATTALION WHICH IS BASED AT BOBO. AS A RESULT, PLANS TO MOVE THIS BATTALION TO NORTHERN BORDER HAVE BEEN ABANDONED FOR TIME BEING.

4. GOUV IS REPORTEDLY FURTHER EMBARRASSED BY THOUSANDS OF MOSSI VETERANS OF ALGERIAN AND INDOCHINA WARS WHO WANT TO VOLUNTEER, BUT FOR WHOM THERE ARE NO UNIFORMS, NO ARMS AND NO AMMUNITION.

GRAHAM
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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